



Indiana Auditor of State  
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# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 22, 2016**

## **Crouch Applauds Unanimous Passage of Gender-Neutral Bill**

STATEHOUSE – State Auditor Crouch applauds the Indiana General Assembly for passing House Bill 1173.

“The Indiana General Assembly sent an empowering message to women—young and old—that in Indiana they can be a part of the success story because they can help to write it,” Auditor Crouch said. “This bill removes another barrier and paves the road to a prosperous 21<sup>st</sup> Century where more women will lead the way and participate in the marketplace of ideas so that we may progress further and faster than ever before.”

House Bill 1173, authored by Representative Sharon Negele and sponsored by Senator Jean Leising, updates Title 4 of the Indiana Code and replaces gender-specific language referencing statewide office holders with more gender-neutral pronouns.

The House passed HB 1173 earlier this month 92-0 and the Senate passed the bill 50-0 Monday afternoon. The bill enjoyed broad support including all female statewide elected officials as well as strong bipartisan support of women and men in the House and Senate.

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*Elected in 2014 as Indiana’s 56<sup>th</sup> State Auditor, Suzanne Crouch serves as the state’s Chief Financial Officer. Prior to becoming State Auditor, Crouch served eight years as the State Representative for House District 78 in Evansville.*